

FIGHT ON CONSERVATION

Senator Jones of Washington Eulogizes Secretary Ballinger

History Of The Controversy That Led To The Dismissal Of Forester Pinchot

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Arguing against the Mann conservation bill and the Pinchot idea of conservation of national resources, Representative S. G. Smith (Republican, California), today urged upon the house of representatives the passage of his bill turning over to the States all rights and easements for the development of water power sites so as to let the States work out the conservation problem for themselves.

Smith reviewed the conservation fight and described water rights and State laws that regulate them.

"I want to make it perfectly clear," he said, "that congress has nothing whatever to do with the disposal of water rights. Some eastern publications frequently refer to the nation's valuable water rights, but literally it has none. When the national government wants to appropriate water for the irrigation of its own land it must proceed according to the State laws where the water and land are situated."

Two Views.
"Those who claim to be orthodox conservationists assert that easements for the development of water power represent national assets and should be sold for a price. Others take the opposite view and with them I concur. In the century and a quarter of this nation's existence it has never treated national opportunities as stock in trade, and it would be manifestly unfair to change that policy as to a few features now remaining in one part of the country. But there is a better reason than that—a fundamental one. The United States of America is not in business looking for dividends and profits. It is a government, pure and simple. It has along invited the individual to take hold of gifts of nature and convert them to the uses and enjoyment of his fellow men, taking the increment to himself. That is still the safe and sound rule."

Idea Indefensible.
"As a matter of taxation, the idea is equally indefensible. First, because it would be an invasion of the State's legitimate field of taxation and second because of the gross inequality of such a tax."

Smith argued that the proposed bill is not permitted under the constitution because it would amount to federal regulation of corporations operating wholly within State boundaries. "But some are contending that such a power may be created in the national government by the contract, granting the easement."

Smith's Claims.
"That is to say, we will give you the right to cross the public domain if you will agree to charge consumers only such rates as some federal official shall name. A mere extraordinary proposition has seldom been presented nor one more offensive to the sovereign States."

"It means that the people, acting through their State and local governments, cannot be trusted to care for themselves; the protecting wing of some federal official must be spread over them. Who has a right to say that the people are not to be trusted in their local governments? or that the State should abdicate their prerogatives in favor of some bureau chief here at Washington?"

"The suggestion is offensive. It indicates the integrity and sanity of the people in their local affairs—the same people, by the way, which springs this much-vaunted federal authority."

It would be easier and cheaper, Smith declared, for a corporation, if it desired to purchase the influence of one federal official than a large number of State and local officials scattered throughout the States.

State Rights.
"The States having the initial factor, the water right, to bestow and being burdened with every duty in connection with the construction and operation of the plant," he concluded, "it has seemed to me that the wise thing to do was to turn over to the several States in trust for the people the easements in question and give them a free hand in working out the whole question. A bill to that effect has been widely discussed in the western press during the past few months and has the general endorsement except among those who say the people at home cannot be trusted."

"Whether this easement be granted to the power companies by the federal government, or issued through the hands of the States, it should be granted in trust for the people, and the public's contribution to the water-

power, so that it may not be capitalized by the company and become the basis of an issue of stocks and bonds; and so also if at any time the government, either national, State or local, should decide to acquire the plant, a price could not be exacted for what the people in the beginning bestow on the company."

Senator Jones Explains.
After the resolution had been read in the upper house Senator Jones of Washington explained it in a speech, emphasizing Secretary Ballinger and disclaiming any purpose of "whitewashing" his administration of the public lands.

"The various departments and bureaus of the government are organized," he said, "to do its business in the interests of the people. Every official is but the servant and agent of the people to act for them under and within the limits of the law."

"The efficiency of public service depends upon the confidence of the people in the honesty and integrity of their servants and agents. It is a sad commentary on the state of public opinion that the moment a man accepts a public office he becomes a scoundrel in the eyes of many of our people and his previous life of honesty and rectitude is no warrant of official integrity. His acts are misconstrued and his motives questioned."

Insinuations.
"Insinuations and innuendoes are freely made under the guise of the public welfare but in reality to foster some private interest. Popular views are taken advantage of to discredit an official, who, after investigating all phases of a subject, may reach a decision at variance with some private interest. Many do not stop to think how seldom have government officials gone astray compared with their opportunities and temptations for wrong doing. In the hundred and twenty-five years of our national life few of the men in high positions have been so assailed by other than the highest and most patriotic motives. This should cause our people to hesitate to accept charges of base conduct against their public servants without investigation and proof."

"The press and magazines of the country for several months have been filled with charges against the present secretary of the interior and his conduct of the office he holds. These charges range from petty insinuations and innuendoes to direct charges of malfeasance and misfeasance in office which, if true, show that he had most unworthily discharged his trust. A moment's thought should cause an honest and fair-minded man to hesitate to accept such charges against a man whose whole life heretofore has been one of the highest rectitude and against whom no dishonorable charge has ever been made in either private or public life. Such a man is the present secretary of the interior."

Outlines Record.
Senator Jones outlined the record of Secretary Ballinger. He stated that Ballinger's administration as mayor of Seattle has since that time been a model for his successors and that he accepted the office of commissioner of the general land office only at the general solicitation of Secretary Garfield.

"He accepted his present position," said Senator Jones, "only on the earnest solicitation of the President. He did not seek it. It meant nothing to him but hard work and poor pay. He gave up a large and lucrative law practice simply at the call of patriotic duty. Is it possible that he at once became the scoundrel and the arch-enemy of the people that he has been reported in the public press? I cannot believe it. If he had used his high office to advance special interests, if he has sacrificed the people for private or personal gain, let it be shown. If, on the other hand, the people have been deceived and he has been unjustly accused, that should be shown, not only that justice may be done him, but that the confidence of the public in the honesty and integrity of its public servants may be restored and strengthened and the animals of the attacks disclosed."

Senator Jones here took occasion to declare that Secretary Ballinger is one of the most radical conservationists in America. He differs from the Pinchot people, the Senator stated, only with regard to the methods to be employed.

Many Platitudes.
"One thing is sure," he cried, "we have had several years of talk about conservation, we have had platitudes piled upon platitudes in the most dra-

matic way but no specific or detailed plans for conservation have been presented."

Taking up in detail Ballinger's recommendation for conservation legislation, Senator Jones declared that they are the first concrete proposals for conservation ever made.

"Conscious of the purity of his motives and the rectitude of his intentions," the Senator concluded, "the secretary of the interior welcomes this investigation. I have presented the resolution calling for this investigation, not in his behalf or in antagonism to any other official of the government, but in the interests of good administration and in order that the people may know the facts of this deplorable controversy and for the judgment thereof of an impartial body. This resolution has been drawn directly from the committee to investigate certain and specific lines and then authority is given it to make any further investigation that it may deem desirable. The intention is to secure the broadest and most thorough investigation. If the resolution can be made broader and more rigid, and a more thorough investigation secured, it should be done and will be welcomed by the secretary. He wants no whitewash; he wants no partial investigation; he wants it rigid, thorough, complete and conducted without fear or favor."

Glavis' Letter.

"As to the action of the land office on these claims (the Cunningham coal entries), I assert that the land office ordered the Cunningham claims to patent without due investigation when Commissioner Ballinger knew they were under suspicion; that while in office Commissioner Ballinger urged congress to pass a law which would validate fraudulent Alaska claims; that shortly after resigning from office he became attorney for the Cunningham group and other Alaska claims; that soon after he became secretary of the interior his office rendered a decision which would have validated all fraudulent Alaska claims. A reversal of that decision on every point was obtained from Attorney-General Wickersham. Had it not been for Mr. Wickersham's decision every fraudulent Alaska claim would have gone to patent."

Story of the Row.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—This is the story of the Ballinger-Pinchot row. It began with the refusal of Richard Achilles Ballinger—within a few weeks after he became secretary of the interior, on March 6 last—to withdraw from entry certain small portions of the public lands for so-called ranger sites, at the request of Gifford Pinchot, chief of the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture.

The dispute has grown until today it is admittedly the foremost feature of President Taft's administration. Originally a petty departmental affair, it has expanded until of late it has resulted in whisperings of a "Back from Elba" movement, with Theodore Roosevelt in the role of Napoleon and the activities of the Forest Service and its officials as part of a widespread plot for the discrediting of the Taft regime. It has engrossed the attention of the cabinet, while important international affairs waited; preceded long lists of distinguished personalities with important business on the engagement list of President Taft, and finally, has halted congress in its business of making laws.

Early History.
In the last days of the preceding administration, James R. Garfield, then secretary of the interior, by direction of President Roosevelt, and with the idea of preserving the public domain from monopolistic exploitation, had withdrawn from entry vast tracts of land located along western rivers, peculiarly adapted for furnishing hydraulic electric power.

During the last two weeks of March 1909, Garfield kept the midnight carboys aglow in his office poring over maps of western States, and stabbing with little plas marks for withdrawal rivers which seemed to have power site possibilities.

These withdrawals were under the "supervisory authority" of the secretary of the interior. This authority, Garfield held, gave him the right to withdraw apparently valuable lands until congress should have time to legislate regarding their future disposition.

Garfield replaced.

Then the Taft regime began, and Ballinger replaced Garfield in the interior department. Chief Forester Pinchot, through his superior, Secretary Wilson, of the department of agriculture, had been recommending to the interior department for withdrawal, as ranger sites, small tracts in the public domain outside of the forest reserves.

There had been no difficulty under the Roosevelt administration, but when the first batch of these proposed withdrawals, located in the States of Washington and Oregon, reached Secretary Ballinger, he refused to approve them, saying that such action would be adding to the forest reserves—a power held exclusively by congress—in those States.

This was the opening gun. Secretary Wilson took the matter to President Taft, who referred it to Attorney-General Wickersham, where it lay for months. It was finally decided in

favor of Secretary Ballinger.

Before the smoke of the ranger site skirmish cleared away, somebody discovered that Secretary Ballinger was hard at work—and had been since a week after his taking office—in taking to entry millions of these power sites withdrawn only a short time before.

Ballinger founded his restoration on the theory that the secretary of the interior has none of the "supervisory authority" which Secretary Garfield had quoted to justify the withdrawals. Out of the west came a chorus of disapproval. Ballinger continued his restorations, until the matter was called to the attention of President Taft, who decided in favor of the "supervisory authority."

This brought the Ballinger administration down to August 1910 and then through the lowering clouds broke the flash, with a thunderous report, the Glavis charges, regarding the Cunningham coal mines in Alaska.

Reopens Case.

It was with the Cunningham claims in this situation that Glavis journeyed from Seattle to Beverly, Mass., last summer and laid the case before President Taft. The whole west by this time was abuzz with the discussion of the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy. Both of the principals were attending rival "Conservation Congresses" in the west. Pinchot making speeches demanding the "preservation of the land for the people" and Ballinger declaring that "Pinchot is trying to run the Interior Department."

Then came the open letter from the President to Secretary Ballinger completely exonerating him, and characterizing the Glavis charges as mere "shreds of suspicion." Glavis was discharged and the administration waited for the unpleasant incident to be forgotten. But this is just what did not happen. Glavis carried his charges into the public prints, and the battle was renewed with vigor. Finally the situation became so acute, that Ballinger, just before the Christmas holidays, wrote a letter to Senator Jones of Washington, demanding a congressional investigation, not only of his own conduct but of that of the officials of the Forest Service whom he charged with insuring the attacks upon his administration. This letter was read to the Senate, and arrangements were made for the introduction immediately after the reconvening of Congress of a resolution providing for an investigation.

Central Union Church.

The day will be given over practically all day to the Clark Christian Endeavor Party.

The Sunday School and Men's League Bible Class will meet as usual at 9:50 a. m.

At 11 o'clock Dr. Francis E. Clark, President of the United Christian Society, who is just returning from a tour of the world, is expected to preach.

At 3 o'clock in this church a Junior Endeavor Rally will be held when Mrs. F. E. Clark will be the principal speaker. This meeting is intended especially for the younger people, the Sunday School scholars of the city. But the grown ups are also invited.

The evening services are omitted at Central Union in order that everybody may attend the Endeavor mass meeting at Kawaiahao Church where Dr. Clark, Secretary Shaw and others of the Endeavor Party will speak.

Admission to this service up to 8:15 will be to Christian Endeavorers only. After that it will be open to everybody.

The Soubrette—"Did you ever hear the new barytone sing, 'Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep?'"

Low Comedian—"Yes, twice—and it made me seasick both times."

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for the stomach will be of great benefit to anyone, when it is weak and unable to do its work properly, thus causing the blood to become poor. But be sure it is HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS.

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THE KOHALA BRIDGE

No. 1. ("And the First Shall Be Last.") Patent May Be Applied For

We are not issuing this publication with the idea of filling a long-felt want or of uplifting anybody or anything. We wouldn't be harsh enough to do that to a how-wow.

Our idea is to indulge in a little harmless amusement, even at our own expense. 'Tis true that a certain similarity may be observed between this and a well-known local weekly, but "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." Should exception be taken to anything in our columns the matter will be attended to in the next issue as ever is.

This being the festive season, the Bridge's staff is organizing a pantomime. This work of dramatic art is entitled "The Lady and the Leaf-Hopper," and the cast is, partially, as follows:

Fairy Princesses . . . W. P. McDougall
Halley's Comet . . . A. Mason
Full Moon . . . Takihara San
The Lady . . . 1785
Imperial Mixer . . . F. O'Brien
Right Hind Leg of the Royal Elephant . . . P. W. P. Bluest
Baron Bonemeal . . . H. L. Holstein
Wandering Minstrel . . . E. Vaukhan
Leafhopper . . . Bluest
Forest Nymph . . . G. C. Watt
Genial Genie . . . F. C. Paetow
(To be perfectly frank we will state that none of the above-mentioned gentlemen have yet been consulted in the matter.)

The following is a copy of the opening chorus as sung by the Bridge's staff, disguised as juveniles, act 7 to 12:

CHORUS

"We're a lot of little nippers, tho' we're wearing man's sized slippers, and the whiskers on our faces are all our own."

"We're a lot of little devils come down from higher levels To make the latest news and gossip known."

If the news be sometimes lacking, then our little brains we're raking

To find the wherewithal to fill the vacant space. Sometimes we'll wax sarcastic at the County's Law elastic.

Or emphasize the fact that a young man's shaved his face.

Or we'll talk society, its doings and its ploys, Its picnics and its meetings at the hall.

With little side remarks on Cupid's little larks

And a guess at whom he's shooting up this fall.

Now, although we may not charm, we surely mean no harm.

And we think our little paper's doing good.

For it gives us occupation in our spare time and vacation. And printing's a lot more fun than sawing wood."

LOCAL ITEMS AND SUCH LIKE.
The political pot is beginning to simmer. We hope that, when it boils next November, there will be more than scum coming to the top.

Dr. Bond has been appointed medical officer to the Civic League in order that prompt attention may be paid to such members as may be out of order.

With so many able pastors in our churches, no member of this community has any excuse for dispensing with the consolations of religion.

Fire insurance may also be obtained from G. P. Tulloch.

"Silence is Golden." The members of the Kohala Civic League do not consider that the directors of that body should entirely adopt this motto in regard to their proceedings.

That is a very absent minded young man who recently attempted to go to Kukuhaele from Honokaa via Kawaihae, Mahukona, Awini and the windward gulches. He now thinks that the gulches east of Wailoa should be provided with step ladders.

It is suggested, as one method of assisting in the preservation of the forests, that automobiles should be prohibited from climbing trees.

We always understood that a minister's vocation was to convert erring mortals into angels, but Dr. Cowan has departed from the accepted custom by turning some of the young members of the community into little devils.

P. S.—We mean printer's devils.

The spell of dry weather from which the district has been suffering recently has been severely bent the last few days.

The Christmas season brings joy to our midst. A Christmas dinner too freely partaken of is apt to bring pain to the same region.

"A bird from the coop is worth two from cold storage."—Ancient Roman Proverb.

ADVERTISEMENTS
J. Meinicke.

Automobile Physician and Surgeon. Painless Operations.

Owing to lack of space, other advertisements are crowded out.

MANY ARE KILLED IN TRAIN WRECK

SAULT STE. MARIE, Jan. 21.—Fifty persons were killed and ninety were injured when a Canadian-Pacific train plunged over a steep embankment near Espanola today. A broken rail was responsible for the horrible tragedy. Four coaches went over the embankment; two of them were submerged in the river and two were destroyed by fire.

At the foot of the embankment flows a deep river, and into this two of the passenger coaches were precipitated.

The other two coaches which went over the cliff lodged on the river bank and those within were saved the horrors of drowning within prison walls. These latter coaches soon burst into flames, and the shrieks of agony rent the air.

Uninjured passengers and trainmen worked at rescue, but, feverishly as the rescuers worked, they were forced to see many die before their horror-stricken eyes.

CHICAGO BUTCHERS FEAR BOYCOTT.

CHICAGO, Jan. 21.—The meat boycott is assuming national proportions, and dealers are becoming seriously alarmed. The retailers blame the packers for the high prices of meat which brought about the boycott, while the packers lay the blame on the farmers.

The people of the city, numbering many thousands, are sticking to their pledge not to buy a pound of meat, and the situation looks black for the retailers.

MEXICO STILL FRIENDLY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 21.—In the course of a conference with the President, Ambassador de la Barra of Mexico today declared that the hostility against the United States exhibited by some of the Mexican newspapers does not represent the attitude of the government. The President and Senator de la Barra discussed the Central American situation thoroughly.

SAVINGS BANK BILL GOOD.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 21.—The President today sent a message to the Senate, urging that body to use haste and consider some measures which he has recommended. The President was assured that the postal savings bank bill will pass the Upper House.

TAGGERT ACCIDENTALLY SHOT.

NATCHEZ, Jan. 21.—Tom Taggart, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, was accidentally shot by his secretary while out hunting today. Though Taggart's wound is serious, it is not thought that it will necessarily prove fatal.

GRAHAM IN PLACE OF LLOYD.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 21.—Representative Graham of Illinois was today named to take the place of Lloyd on the Ballinger investigation committee. Lloyd declined to serve.

McKINLEY MADE CHAIRMAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 21.—Representative McKinley of Illinois was today elected chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee.

JAPANESE DIET CONVENES.

TOKYO, Jan. 21.—The Diet convened today. Katsura delivered an address to the Upper House.

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